

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1        1. A method for altering an operational aspect of a mobile electronic device, the  
2        method comprising:

3                providing a sensor associated with the mobile electronic device;

4                determining whether the sensor is coupled to a mating element associated with the  
5        sensor;

6                developing a signal in the sensor, the signal determined by whether the sensor is  
7        coupled to the mating element;

8                receiving the signal in a processor; and

9                altering a characteristic of the mobile electronic device based on the received sensor  
10      signal.

1        2. The method of claim 1, wherein the altering step alters a user interface  
2        characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1        3. The method of claim 1, wherein the altering step alters a radio frequency  
2        (RF) characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1        4. The method of claim 1, further comprising using a default user interface  
2        characteristic and a default radio frequency characteristic if the determining step concludes  
3        that the sensor is not coupled to the mating element.

1               5.     The method of claim 1, further comprising altering a user interface  
2     characteristic based upon a sensor signal determined by the mating element if the determining  
3     step concludes that the sensor is coupled to a mating element.

1               6.     The method of claim 1, further comprising altering a radio frequency (RF)  
2     characteristic based upon a sensor signal determined by the mating element if the determining  
3     step concludes that the sensor is coupled to a mating element.

1               7.     The method of claim 5, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2     predetermined and stored in a memory associated with the processor.

1               8.     The method of claim 5, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2     dynamically adjustable by a user of the mobile electronic device.

1               9.     The method of claim 6, wherein the RF characteristic is predetermined and  
2     stored in a memory associated with the processor.

1               10.    The method of claim 1, wherein the mating element is chosen from the group  
2     consisting of, no coupling, a belt clip, a belt pouch, a charger, a car clip, and a clothing  
3     carrier.

1           11. The method of claim 10, wherein the altering step alters an operational  
2       aspect of the mobile electronic device based upon whether the mobile electronic device is  
3       uncoupled from the mating element or located in the belt clip, the belt pouch, the charger, the  
4       car clip, or the clothing carrier.

1           12. A system for altering an operational aspect of a mobile electronic device,  
2       comprising:

3           a sensor associated with the mobile electronic device;  
4           a mating element associated with the sensor, the sensor configured to develop a  
5       signal based on the mating element; and  
6           logic configured to receive the signal from the sensor and alter a characteristic of the  
7       mobile electronic device based on the received sensor signal.

1           13. The system of claim 12, wherein the sensor is decoupled from the mating  
2       element and the sensor signal causes the logic to use a default user interface characteristic  
3       and a default radio frequency (RF) characteristic.

1           14. The system of claim 12, wherein the sensor is coupled to the mating element  
2       and the mating element determines the sensor signal.

1           15. The system of claim 14, wherein the sensor signal causes the logic to alter a  
2       user interface characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1           16. The system of claim 14, wherein the sensor signal causes the logic to alter a  
2 radio frequency (RF) characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1           17. The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2 predetermined and stored in a memory associated with the processor.

1           18. The system of claim 15, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2 dynamically adjustable by a user of the mobile electronic device.

1           19. The system of claim 16, wherein the RF characteristic is predetermined and  
2 stored in a memory associated with the processor.

1           20. The system of claim 12, wherein the mating element is chosen from the  
2 group consisting of, no coupling, a belt clip, a belt pouch, a charger, a car clip, and a clothing  
3 carrier.

1           21. The system of claim 20, wherein an operational aspect of the mobile  
2 electronic device is altered based upon whether the mobile electronic device is uncoupled  
3 from the mating element or located in the belt clip, the belt pouch, the charger, the car clip,  
4 or the clothing carrier.

1           22. A computer readable medium having a program for altering an operational  
2       aspect of a mobile electronic device, the program comprising logic configured to perform the  
3       steps of:

4           determining whether a sensor associated with the mobile electronic device is coupled  
5       to a mating element associated with the sensor;

6           developing a signal in the sensor, the signal determined by whether the sensor is  
7       coupled to the mating element;

8           receiving the signal in a processor; and

9           10      altering a characteristic of the mobile electronic device based on the received sensor  
signal.

1           23. The program of claim 22, wherein the altering step alters a user interface  
2       characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1           24. The program of claim 22, wherein the altering step alters a radio frequency  
2       (RF) characteristic of the mobile electronic device.

1           25. The program of claim 22, further comprising logic configured to perform the  
2       step of using a default user interface characteristic and a default radio frequency  
3       characteristic if the determining step concludes that the sensor is not coupled to the mating  
4       element.

1           26. The program of claim 22, further comprising logic configured to perform the  
2 step of altering a user interface characteristic based upon a sensor signal determined by the  
3 mating element if the determining step concludes that the sensor is coupled to a mating  
4 element.

1           27. The program of claim 22, further comprising logic configured to perform the  
2 step of altering a radio frequency (RF) characteristic based upon a sensor signal determined  
3 by the mating element if the determining step concludes that the sensor is coupled to a  
4 mating element.

1           28. The program of claim 26, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2 predetermined and stored in a memory associated with the processor

1           29. The program of claim 26, wherein the user interface characteristic is  
2 dynamically adjustable by a user of the mobile electronic device.

1           30. The program of claim 27, wherein the RF characteristic is predetermined and  
2 stored in a memory associated with the processor.

1           31. The program of claim 22, wherein the mating element is chosen from the  
2 group consisting of, no coupling, a belt clip, a belt pouch, a charger, a car clip, and a clothing  
3 carrier.

1           32. The program of claim 31, wherein the altering step alters an operational  
2 aspect of the mobile electronic device based upon whether the mobile electronic device is  
3 uncoupled from the mating element or located in the belt clip, the belt pouch, the charger, the  
4 car clip, or the clothing carrier.

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